

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (Currently Amended). A capsule ~~comprising a~~ shell, having an outer surface and an opposed inner surface, the inner surface defining at least in part a confined space for holding a drug substance, and the outer surface being exposed to a gastro-intestinal environment, the capsule shell being composed of an extruded ~~material comprising a pharmaceutical capsule shell~~ composition comprising:

a ~~extruded~~ copolymer of methyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate and methacrylic acid with a molar ratio of monomer units represented as 7:3:1 present in an amount of about 20 to 90% w/w;

a lubricant present in an amount of 5 ~~[[10]]~~ to about 30% w/w;

a combination of a first and second dissolution modifying excipients present in an amount of about 2.5 to about 70% w/w, and wherein each one of the first and second dissolution modifying agents is ~~are~~ selected from the group consisting of a swellable solid present in the range of about 5% to about 70%w/w, a non-reducing sugar present in the range of about 2.5 to 15% w/w; a water soluble filler present in the range of about 5 to 20%<sub>1</sub> ~~[[;]]~~ a wicking agent present in the range of 5-10%, and a disintegrant present in the range of about 10 to 40%<sub>1</sub> ~~[[;]]~~ and

optionally a surfactant present in an amount of 0 to 10%, a plasticizer present in the amount of 0 to 10% w/w and/or a processing agent present in an amount of 0 to about 10% w/w<sub>1</sub> ~~[[, ]]~~

wherein the extruded capsule shell composition is substantially pH-independent.

~~wherein the shell material between and including the inner and outer surfaces is composed of the extruded material.~~

2. (Previously presented) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 1 wherein the copolymer is present in an amount of about 50 to 90% w/w.

3. (Previously presented) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 1 which comprises a surfactant which is present in an amount of less than 5% w/w.

4. (Previously presented) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 3 wherein the surfactant is sodium dodecyl sulphate or is a block copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide.

5. (Previously presented) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 4 wherein the surfactant is sodium dodecyl sulphate is present in an amount of less than 2% w/w.

6. (Previously presented) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 4 wherein the surfactant is a block copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide.

7. (Previously presented) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 1 wherein the lubricant is present in an amount of about 10 to 25 % w/w.

8. (Previously presented) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 1 wherein the lubricant is stearyl alcohol, glycerol monostearate (GMS), talc, magnesium stearate, silicon dioxide, amorphous silicic acid, or fumed silica; and combinations or mixtures thereof.

9. (Previously presented) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 8 wherein the lubricant is stearyl alcohol.

10. (Previously presented) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 9 wherein the stearyl alcohol is present from about 10 to about 15% w/w.

11. (Currently amended) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 1 wherein at least one ~~the first~~ dissolution modifying excipient is a swellable solid which is ethyl cellulose, cellulose acetate phthalate; hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose phthalate, or other hydroxyalkylcellulose derivative; and combinations or mixtures thereof.

12. (Currently amended) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 11 wherein the at least one dissolution modifying excipient is hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose phthalate, or hydroxypropyl cellulose; and combinations or mixtures thereof.

13. (Currently amended) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 12 wherein the at least one dissolution modifying excipient ~~swellable solid~~ is present in an amount of about 10 to 50% w/w.

14. (Currently amended) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 1 wherein at least one ~~the first~~ dissolution modifying excipient is selected from xylitol, mannitol, lactose, pregelatinized starch, sodium chloride, sodium starch glycollate, croscarmellose sodium, crospovidone (cross-linked polyvinyl pyrrolidone), copovidone, or polyvinyl pyrrolidone, and combinations or mixtures thereof.

15. (Currently amended) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 14 wherein the at least one dissolution modifying excipient is present in an amount of about 40 to 70% w/w.

16. (Currently amended) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 11 wherein at least one ~~the first~~ dissolution modifying excipient is a swellable solid and at least one other ~~the second~~ dissolution modifying excipient ~~[[is]]~~ selected from lactose, sodium starch glycollate, croscarmellose sodium, copovidone, crospovidone (cross-linked polyvinyl pyrrolidone), or polyvinyl pyrrolidone.

17. (Currently amended) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 16 wherein the at least one first dissolution modifying excipient is hydroxypropylcellulose and the at least one other second dissolution modifying excipient is lactose.

18. (Previously presented) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 1 wherein the surfactant is a block copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide, lecithin, sodium dioctyl sulfosuccinate, sodium dodecyl sulphate, Polyoxyl 40 hydrogenated castor oil, polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid esters, the sorbitan fatty acid esters, polyethylene glycol, Vitamin E-TPGS® (d-alpha-tocopheryl polyethylene glycol 1000 succinate), sucrose fatty acid ester; and combinations and mixtures thereof.

19. (Currently amended) The capsule shell composition according Claim 18 wherein the combination of dissolution modifying excipients is a combination of a swellable solid and lactose, sodium starch glycollate, croscarmellose sodium, copovidone, crospovidone (cross-linked polyvinyl pyrrolidone), or polyvinyl pyrrolidone.

20. (Previously presented) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 1 wherein the plasticizer is triethyl citrate (TEC), tributyl citrate, acetyl triethyl citrate (ATEC), acetyl tributyl citrate (ATBC), dibutyl phthalate, dibutyl sebacate (DBS), diethyl phthalate, vinyl pyrrolidone glycol triacetate, polyethylene glycol, polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate, propylene glycol, or castor oil; and combinations or mixtures thereof.

21. (Previously presented) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 1 wherein the processing agent is talc.

22. (Previously presented) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 21 wherein the processing agent is present in an amount of about 1 to about 5 % w/w.

23. (Previously presented) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 1 which further comprises an absorption enhancer.

24. (Previously presented) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 23 wherein the absorption enhancer is chitosan, lecithin, lectin, a sucrose fatty acid ester, Vitamin E-TPGS; and combinations or mixtures thereof.

25. (Currently amended) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 1 wherein the copolymer is present in an amount of about 50 to 90% w/w, the lubricant is stearyl alcohol present in an amount of about 10 to about 15% w/w, and at least one ~~the first~~ dissolution modifying excipient is hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, or a hydroxylalkyl cellulose derivative or salt thereof.

26. (Currently amended) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 25 wherein at least one other ~~the second~~ dissolution modifying excipient is a disintegrant.

27. (Previously presented) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 26 wherein the disintegrant is sodium starch glycollate, croscarmellose sodium, copovidone, crospovidone (cross-linked polyvinyl pyrrolidone), or polyvinyl pyrrolidone, or a combination or mixture thereof.

28. (Currently amended) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 25 wherein at least one other ~~the second~~ dissolution modifying excipient is a wicking agent.

29. (Previously presented) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 28 wherein the wicking agent is lactose.

30. (Previously presented) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 25 wherein the processing aid is talc.

31. (Currently amended) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 1 which is:

	Formulation	% w/w	
	Copolymer	75.0	or
	Stearyl alcohol	5.0	
	Mannitol	10.0	
	Sodium starch glycollate	10.0	
	Formulation	% w/w	
	Copolymer	65.0	or
	Stearyl alcohol	5.0	
	Mannitol	10.0	
	Sodium starch glycollate	20.0	
	Copolymer	80.0	or
	Stearyl alcohol	5.0	
	Sodium starch glycollate	10.0	
	Lactose monohydrate	5.0	
	Copolymer	75.0	or
	Stearyl alcohol	5.0	
	Sodium starch glycollate	10.0	
	Lactose monohydrate	10.0	
	Copolymer	80.0	or
	Stearyl alcohol	5.0	
	Sodium starch glycollate	5.0	
	Lactose monohydrate	10.0	
	Copolymer	70.0	or
	Stearyl alcohol	5.0	
	Sodium starch glycollate	5.0	
	Lactose monohydrate	20.0	
	Copolymer	75.0	or
	Stearyl alcohol	10.0	
	Mannitol	7.5	
	Sodium starch glycollate	7.5	

	Formulation	% w/w	
	Copolymer	80.0	or
	Stearyl alcohol	5.0	
	Pregelatinized Starch	10.0	
	Lactose monohydrate	5.0	
	Copolymer	80.0	or
	Stearyl alcohol	5.0	
	Sodium starch glycollate	10.0	
	Lactose monohydrate	5.0	
	Copolymer	75.0	or
	Stearyl alcohol	10.0	
	Sodium starch glycollate	10.0	
	Lactose monohydrate	5.0	
	Copolymer	85.0	or
	Stearyl alcohol	5.0	
	Sodium chloride	5.0	
	Lactose monohydrate	5.0	
	Copolymer	85.0	or
	Stearyl alcohol	5.0	
	Hydroxypropyl cellulose	5.0	
	Lactose monohydrate	5.0	
	Formulation	% w/w	
	Copolymer	85.0	or
	Stearyl alcohol	5.0	
	Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose	5.0	
	Lactose monohydrate	5.0	
	Copolymer	80.0	or
	Stearyl alcohol	10.0	
	Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose	5.0	
	Lactose monohydrate	5.0	

	Copolymer	80.0	or
	Stearyl alcohol	10.0	
	Sodium starch glycollate	5.0	
	Lactose monohydrate	5.0	
	Copolymer	80.0	or
	Stearyl alcohol	10.0	
	Hypromellose phthallate	5.0	
	Lactose monohydrate	5.0	
	Copolymer	80.0	or
	Stearyl alcohol	10.0	
	Low <u>molecular weight</u> substituted	5.0	
	hydroxypropyl cellulose		
	Lactose monohydrate	5.0	
	<b>Formulation</b>	<b>% w/w</b>	
	Copolymer	73.0	or
	Stearyl alcohol	12.0	
	Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose	10.0	
	Lactose monohydrate	5.0	
	Copolymer	79.0	or
	Sodium dodecyl sulphate	1.0	
	Croscarmellose sodium	10	
	Sodium starch glycollate	10	
	Copolymer	80.0	or
	Croscarmellose sodium	10	
	Sodium starch glycollate	10	
	Copolymer	69.0	.
	Sodium dodecyl sulphate	1.0	
	Croscarmellose sodium	15	
	Sodium starch glycollate	15	



32. (Previously presented) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 1 which is:

<b>Components</b>	# (1) % w/w or	(2) w/w or	(3) w/w or	(4) w/w or	(5) w/w or	(6) w/w
Copolymer	45%	35%	25%	75%	65%	55%
Stearyl Alcohol	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Lactose	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Hydroxypropyl Cellulose	40%	50%	60%	10%	20%	30%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%.

33. (Currently amended) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 1 which is: [[:]]

<b>Components</b>	# (1) % w/w or	(2) w/w or	(3) w/w or	(4) w/w or	(5) w/w or	(6) w/w
Copolymer	63%	62.9%	62.75%	52%	42%	62%
Croscarmellose sodium	10%	10%	10%	15%	20%	5%
Sodium starch glycollate	10%	10%	10%	15%	20%	5%
Stearyl alcohol	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%
Hydroxypropyl-methylcellulose	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	15%
Sodium Dodecyl Sulphate	0%	0.1%	0.25%	1%	1%	1% .

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently amended) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 1 which is:

Example #	Formulation	%w/w	
1	Copolymer	73.0	or
	Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose	10.0	
	Lactose (regular)	5.0	
	Glyceryl monostearate	12.0	
2	Copolymer	53.0	or
	Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose	10.0	
	Lactose (regular)	5.0	
	Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose phthallate	20.0	
	Stearyl alcohol	12.0	
3	Copolymer	68.0	or
	Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose	10.0	
	Lactose (regular)	5.0	
	Sodium dodecyl sulphate	5.0	
	Stearyl alcohol	12.0	
4	Copolymer	72.0	or
	Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose	10.0	
	Lactose (regular)	5.0	
	Sodium dodecyl sulphate	1.0	
	Stearyl alcohol	12.0	
5	Copolymer	71.0	or
	Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose	10.0	
	Lactose (regular)	5.0	
	Sodium dodecyl sulphate	2.0	
	Stearyl alcohol	12.0	

Example #	Formulation	%w/w	
6	Copolymer	62.0	or
	Sodium starch glycollate	20.0	
	Lactose (regular)	5.0	
	Sodium dodecyl sulphate	1.0	
	Stearyl alcohol	12.0	
7	Copolymer	75.0	or
	Sodium starch glycollate	10.0	
	Lactose (regular)	10.0	
	Stearyl alcohol	5.0	
8	Copolymer	72.0	or
	Sodium starch glycollate	10.0	
	Lactose (regular)	5.0	
	Sodium dodecyl sulphate	1.0	
	Stearyl alcohol	12.0	
9	Copolymer	62.0	or
	Croscarmellose sodium	20.0	
	Lactose (regular)	5.0	
	Sodium dodecyl sulphate	1.0	
	Stearyl alcohol	12.0	
10	Copolymer	62.0	or
	Sodium starch glycollate	20.0	
	Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose	5.0	
	Sodium dodecyl sulphate	1.0	
	Stearyl alcohol	12.0	

Example #	Formulation	%w/w	
11	Copolymer Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose phthallate Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose Sodium dodecyl sulphate Stearyl alcohol	62.0 20.0 <del>5.0</del> <u>5.0</u> <del>1.0</del> <u>1.0</u> <del>12.0</del> <u>12.0</u>	or
12	Copolymer Sodium starch glycollate Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose Sodium dodecyl sulphate Stearyl alcohol	62.5 20.0 5.0 0.5 12.0	or
13	Copolymer Croscarmellose sodium Sodium starch glycollate Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose Sodium dodecyl sulphate Stearyl alcohol	62.0 10.0 10.0 5.0 1.0 12.0	or
14	Copolymer Croscarmellose sodium Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose Sodium dodecyl sulphate Stearyl alcohol	67.0 15.0 5.0 1.0 12.0	or
15	Copolymer Croscarmellose sodium Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose Sodium dodecyl sulphate Stearyl alcohol	72.0 10.0 5.0 1.0 12.0	or

Example #	Formulation	%w/w	
16	Copolymer Croscarmellose sodium Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose Sodium dodecyl sulphate Stearyl alcohol	77.0 5.0 5.0 1.0 12.0	or
17	Copolymer Croscarmellose sodium Sodium starch glycollate Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose Sodium dodecyl sulphate Stearyl alcohol	52.0 15.0 15.0 5.0 1.0 12.0	or
18	Copolymer Croscarmellose sodium Sodium starch glycollate Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose Sodium dodecyl sulphate Stearyl alcohol	42.0 20.0 20.0 5.0 1.0 12.0	or
19	Copolymer Croscarmellose sodium Sodium starch glycollate Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose Sodium dodecyl sulphate Stearyl alcohol	42.0 20.0 20.0 5.0 1.0 12.0	or
20	Copolymer Croscarmellose sodium Sodium starch glycollate Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose Sodium dodecyl sulphate Stearyl alcohol	62.0 5.0 5.0 15.0 1.0 12.0	or

Example #	Formulation	%w/w	
21	Copolymer	62.9	[[or]]
	Croscarmellose sodium	10.0	
	Sodium starch glycollate	10.0	
	Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose	5.0	
	Sodium dodecyl sulphate	0.1	
	Stearyl alcohol	12.0	

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently amended) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 1 wherein the lubricant is stearyl alcohol present in an amount of 10 to 15% w/w, the surfactant is SDS or a block copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide present in an amount less than 5% w/w; and the dissolution modifying excipient is selected from a combination of HPC, HPMC, sodium starch glycollate, croscarmellose sodium, copovidone, xylitol [[and]] or lactose.

39. (Previously presented) A capsule shell composition according to Claim 1 that is in the form of an injection molded capsule shell.

40. (Previously presented) A capsule shell composition according to Claim 1 that is in the form of a multicomponent injection molded capsule shell.

41 to 70 (cancelled).

71. (Previously presented) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 1 which is:

	Dissolution Modifier	Lubricant	Surfactant	
1	Hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (5%w/w)	Stearyl alcohol (12% w/w)	None	or
2	Hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (10%w/w), and HPMCphthalate (20%w/w)	Stearyl alcohol (12% w/w)	None	or
3	Hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (10%), and Lactose (5%)	Stearyl alcohol (12%)	None	or
4	Hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (5%)	Stearyl alcohol (12%)	SDS (1%) or Sodium Starch Glycollate (20%) or Tween or a polyoxypropylene-polyoxyethylene block copolymer .	

72. (Currently amended) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 1 which is

Example #	Formulation	% w/w	
1	Copolymer Sodium Dodecyl Sulphate Croscarmellose sodium Stearyl Alcohol Hydroxypropylmethyl Cellulose	77.0 1.0 5.0 12.0 5.0	or
2	Copolymer Croscarmellose sodium Stearyl Alcohol Hydroxypropylmethyl Cellulose	68.0 15.0 12.0 5.0	or

Example #	Formulation	% w/w	
3	Copolymer Sodium Dodecyl Sulphate Croscarmellose sodium Sodium Starch Glycollate Stearyl Alcohol Hydroxypropylmethyl Cellulose	62.0 1.0 10.0 10.0 12.0 5.0	or
4	Copolymer Croscarmellose sodium Sodium Starch Glycollate Stearyl Alcohol Hydroxypropylmethyl Cellulose	63.0 10.0 10.0 12.0 5.0	or
5	Copolymer Sodium Dodecyl Sulphate Croscarmellose sodium Sodium Starch Glycollate Stearyl Alcohol Hydroxypropylmethyl Cellulose	52.0 1.0 15.0 15.0 12.0 5.0	or
6	Copolymer Polyoxypropylene-polyoxyethylene block copolymer Sodium Starch Glycollate Stearyl Alcohol Hydroxypropylmethyl Cellulose	62.0 1.0 20.0 12.0 5.0	or
7	Copolymer polyoxypropylene-polyoxyethylene block copolymer Sodium Starch Glycollate Stearyl Alcohol Hydroxypropylmethyl Cellulose	62.0 1.0 20.0 12.0 5.0	or



Example #	Formulation	% w/w	
8	Copolymer Stearyl Alcohol Croscarmellose sodium Sodium Starch Glycollate Hydroxypropylmethyl Cellulose Sodium Dodecyl Sulphate	62.0 12.0 5.0 5.0 15.0 1.0	or
9	Copolymer Stearyl Alcohol Croscarmellose sodium Sodium Starch Glycollate Hydroxypropylmethyl Cellulose Sodium Dodecyl Sulphate	42.0 12.0 20.0 20.0 5.0 1.0	or
10	Copolymer Stearyl Alcohol Sodium Starch Glycollate Hydroxypropylmethyl Cellulose Sodium Dodecyl Sulphate	47.0 12.0 10.0 30.0 1.0	

73. (Currently amended) A solid generally cylindrical linker body having an outer surface, the outer surface being exposed to a gastro-intestinal environment, the cylindrical linker body being composed of an extruded linker composition material comprising a pharmaceutical composition comprising:

a copolymer of methyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate and methacrylic acid with a molar ratio of monomer units represented as 7:3:1 present in an amount of about 20 to 90% w/w;

a lubricant present in an amount of 10 to about 30% w/w;

a combination of first and second dissolution modifying excipients present in an amount of about 2.5 to about 70% w/w and wherein each of the ~~first and second~~ dissolution modifying agents is ~~is~~ selected from the group consisting of a swellable solid present in the range

of about 5% to about 70%w/w, a non-reducing sugar present in the range of about 2.5 to 15% w/w; a water soluble filler present in the range of about 5 to 20%<sub>2</sub> [[;]] a wicking agent present in the range of 5-10%, and a disintegrant present in the range of about 10 to 40%<sub>2</sub> [[,]]

and optionally a surfactant present in an amount of less than 5% w/w, a plasticizer present in an amount of 0 to 10% w/w and/or a processing agent present in an amount of 0 to about 10% w/w<sub>2</sub>

wherein the linker composition is substantially pH-independent ~~wherein the cylindrical linker body is comprised of the extruded material.~~

74. (Previously presented) The linker composition according to Claim 73 wherein the copolymer is present in an amount of about 50 to 90% w/w.

75. (Previously presented) The linker composition according to Claim 73 wherein the surfactant is a block copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide, lecithin, sodium dioctyl sulfosuccinate, sodium dodecyl sulphate, Polyoxyl 40 hydrogenated castor oil, polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid esters, the sorbitan fatty acid esters, polyethylene glycol, Vitamin E-TPGS® (d-alpha-tocopheryl polyethylene glycol 1000 succinate), sucrose fatty acid ester; and combinations and mixtures thereof.

76. (Currently amended) The linker composition according to Claim 75 wherein the surfactant is sodium dodecyl sulphate [[is]] present in an amount of less than 2% w/w.

77. (Previously presented) The linker composition according to Claim 75 wherein the surfactant is sodium dodecyl sulphate or is a block copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide.

78. (Currently amended) The linker composition according to Claim 77 wherein the surfactant is sodium dodecyl sulphate [[is]] present in an amount of less than 2% w/w.

79. (Previously presented) The linker composition according to Claim 73 wherein the surfactant is a block copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide.

80. (Currently amended) The linker composition according to Claim 79 wherein the surfactant is sodium dodecyl sulphate ~~[[is]]~~ present in an amount of less than 2% w/w.

81. (Previously presented) The linker composition according to Claim 73 wherein the lubricant is stearyl alcohol, glycerol monostearate (GMS), talc, magnesium stearate, silicon dioxide, amorphous silicic acid, or fumed silica; and combinations or mixtures thereof.

82. (Previously presented) The linker composition according to Claim 81 wherein the lubricant is stearyl alcohol.

83. (Previously presented) The linker composition according to Claim 82 wherein the stearyl alcohol is present from about 10 to about 15% w/w.

84. (Currently amended) The linker composition according to Claim 73 wherein at least one ~~the first~~ dissolution modifying excipient is a swellable solid which is ethyl cellulose, cellulose acetate phthalate; hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose phthalate, or other hydroxyalkylcellulose derivative; and combinations or mixtures thereof.

85. (Previously presented) The linker composition according to Claim 84 wherein the swellable solid is present in an amount of about 10 to 50% w/w.

86. (Currently amended) The linker composition according to Claim 84 wherein at least one ~~[[the]]~~ dissolution modifying excipient is hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose phthalate, or hydroxypropyl cellulose; and combinations or mixtures thereof.

87. (Previously presented) The linker composition according to Claim 86 wherein the swellable solid is present in an amount of 10 to 50% w/w.

88. (Currently amended) The linker composition according to Claim 73 wherein at least one ~~the first~~ dissolution modifying excipient is selected from xylitol, mannitol, lactose, pregelatinized starch, sodium chloride, sodium starch glycollate, croscarmellose sodium, crospovidone (cross-linked polyvinyl pyrrolidone), copovidone, polyvinyl pyrrolidone; and combinations or mixtures thereof.

89. (Currently amended) The linker composition according to Claim 88 wherein the at least one dissolution modifying excipient is present in an amount of about 40 to 70% w/w.

90. (Currently amended) The linker composition according to Claim 89 wherein the at least one ~~the first~~ dissolution modifying excipient is a swellable solid and at least one other ~~the second~~ dissolution modifying excipient is selected from lactose, sodium starch glycollate, croscarmellose sodium, copovidone, crospovidone (cross-linked polyvinyl pyrrolidone), or polyvinyl pyrrolidone.

91. (Currently amended) The linker composition according to Claim 90 wherein at least one ~~the first~~ dissolution modifying excipient is hydroxypropylcellulose and at least one other ~~the second~~ dissolution modifying excipient is lactose.

92. (Currently amended) The linker composition according Claim 73 wherein at least one ~~the first~~ dissolution modifying excipient is a swellable solid and at least one other ~~the second~~ dissolution modifying excipient is selected from lactose, sodium starch glycollate, croscarmellose sodium, copovidone, crospovidone (cross-linked polyvinyl pyrrolidone), or polyvinyl pyrrolidone.

93. (Previously presented) The linker composition according to Claim 73 wherein the processing agent is talc.

94. (Previously presented) The linker composition according to Claim 93 wherein the processing agent is present in an amount of about 1 to about 5 % w/w.

95. (Previously presented) The linker composition according to Claim 91 wherein the processing agent is talc and is present in an amount of about 1 to about 5 % w/w.

96. (Previously presented) The linker composition according to Claim 73 which further comprises an absorption enhancer.

97. (Previously presented) The linker composition according to Claim 96 wherein the absorption enhancer is chitosan, lecithin, lectin, a sucrose fatty acid ester, Vitamin E-TPGS; and combinations or mixtures thereof.

98 to 111 (Cancelled)

112. (Currently amended) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 1 wherein the capsule shell has a wall thickness ~~[[is]]~~ in the range of about 0.3 – 0.8 mm.

113. (Currently amended) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 1 wherein the capsule shell has a wall thickness ~~[[is]]~~ in the range of about 0.3 mm to 0.5 mm.

114. (Currently amended) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 19 wherein the swellable solid is selected from ethyl cellulose, cellulose acetate phthalate; hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose phthalate, or other hydroxyalkylcellulose derivative, and combinations or a mixtures thereof.

115. (Currently amended) The capsule shell composition according Claim 1 wherein at least one ~~the first~~ dissolution modifying excipient is a disintegrant and at least one other ~~the second~~ dissolution modifying excipient is a non-reducing sugar.

116. (Currently amended) The capsule shell composition according Claim 115 wherein the disintegrant is sodium starch glycollate or croscarmellose sodium and the non-reducing sugar ~~is~~ xylitol, or mannitol.

117. (Previously presented) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 116 wherein the lubricant is stearyl alcohol.

118. (Currently amended) The capsule shell composition according Claim 1 wherein at least one ~~the first~~ dissolution modifying excipient is a disintegrant and at least one other ~~the second~~ dissolution modifying excipient is a water soluble filler.

119. (Previously presented) The capsule shell composition according Claim 118 wherein the disintegrant is sodium starch glycollate or croscarmellose sodium and the water soluble filler is lactose.

120. (Previously presented) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 119 wherein the lubricant is stearyl alcohol.

121. (Previously presented) The linker composition according to Claim 73 wherein the swellable solid is selected from ethyl cellulose, cellulose acetate phthalate; hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose phthalate, or other hydroxyalkylcellulose derivative, and combinations or a mixtures thereof.

122. (Currently amended) The linker composition according Claim 73 wherein at least one ~~the first~~ dissolution modifying excipient is a disintegrant and at least one other ~~the second~~ dissolution modifying excipient is a non-reducing sugar.

123. (Currently amended) The linker composition according Claim 122 wherein the disintegrant is sodium starch glycollate or croscarmellose sodium and the non-reducing sugar is ~~sugar is~~ xylitol, or mannitol.

124. (Previously presented) The linker composition according to Claim 123 wherein the lubricant is stearyl alcohol.

125. (Currently amended) The linker composition according Claim 73 wherein at least one ~~the first~~ dissolution modifying excipient is a disintegrant and at least one other ~~the second~~ dissolution modifying excipient is a water soluble filler.

126. (Previously presented) The linker composition according Claim 125 wherein the disintegrant is sodium starch glycollate or croscarmellose sodium and the water soluble filler is lactose.

127. (Previously presented) The linker composition according to Claim 126 wherein the lubricant is stearyl alcohol.

128. (Currently amended) The linker composition according to Claim 73 wherein the copolymer is present in an amount of about 50 to 90% w/w, the lubricant is stearyl alcohol present in an amount of about 10 to about 15% w/w , and at least one ~~the first~~ dissolution modifying excipient is hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, or a hydroxylalkyl cellulose derivative or salt thereof.

129. (Previously presented) The linker composition according to Claim 128 wherein the dissolution modifying excipient is lactose.

130. (Currently amended) The linker composition according to Claim 128 wherein at least one ~~other the second~~ dissolution modifying excipient is a disintegrant.

131. (Previously presented) The linker composition according to Claim 130 wherein the disintegrant is sodium starch glycollate, croscarmellose sodium, copovidone, crospovidone (cross-linked polyvinyl pyrrolidone), or polyvinyl pyrrolidone, or a combination or mixture thereof.

132. (Currently amended) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 25 wherein the at least one dissolution modifying excipient is lactose.

133. (Cancelled)

134. (Currently amended) The capsule shell composition according to Claim 26 ~~[[133]]~~ wherein the disintegrant is sodium starch glycollate, croscarmellose sodium, copovidone, crospovidone (cross-linked polyvinyl pyrrolidone), or polyvinyl pyrrolidone, or a combination or mixture thereof.